

**Bremerton ❖  
Kitsap County  
Health District**

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DEPT. OF ECOLOGY

*Willa A. Fisher, MD, MPH, Director  
109 Austin Drive  
Bremerton, WA 98312*

October 24, 1997

Mr. John Poppe  
Wastewater Manager  
City of Bremerton  
Department of Public Works and Utilities  
3027 Olympus Drive  
Bremerton, WA 98310-4799

**RE: BREMERTON AUTO WRECKING LANDFILL CULVERT**

Dear Mr. Poppe:

The purpose of this letter is to request the City of Bremerton's assistance with the evaluation of a stream culvert under the abandoned Bremerton Auto Wrecking Landfill (BAWL) located just south of State Highway 3, approximately one-half mile southwest of the intersection of Sunnyslope Road and Highway 3.

Following the collapse of the landfill into Gorst Creek in March, the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District (Health District) has been working with numerous agencies to determine the public health and environmental impacts from the site. Some of the activities conducted at this site to date include:

1. An engineering study to determine the work needed to protect Highway 3 from the BAWL in the short-term (conducted by the Department of Transportation (DOT));
2. A stream sediment sampling event (conducted by DOT with assistance from the Health District and the State Department of Ecology);
3. The re-sampling of a downgradient groundwater monitoring well (conducted by the City of Bremerton (City));
4. Cleanup of solid waste along Gorst Creek on City property (conducted by the City); and
5. The construction of gabion walls in the downgradient stream corridor to protect State Highway 3 (conducted by DOT).

Health District files indicate that there is a culvert that runs under the landfill. This culvert exits the base of the landfill immediately upstream (south) of the Gorst Creek culvert under Highway 3. Observations made by the Health District and other agencies during site visits indicate that the slumping of the BAWL into Gorst Creek may have been caused in part to overland flow. If the

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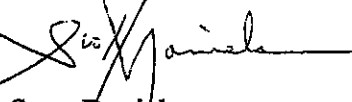
**POULSBO ANNEX**  
*Solid and Hazardous Waste Program / Water Quality Program*  
19540 Front Street  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1076 - Poulsbo, WA 98370-0050  
(360) 692-3611 FAX (360) 692-6684

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culvert is plugged or collapsed, it may result in additional overland flow and the possibility of a repeated collapse of the BAWL into the stream. The issue of whether the culvert remains plugged or is no longer a viable conduit is still unresolved. During various phone conversations between Health District and the City Public Works and Utilities staff, the City indicated that they would be willing to run a video camera through the culvert to determine if it is still intact. As the rainy season approaches, the integrity of the culvert remains an important issue. Should an event similar to the March 1997 BAWL collapse happen again, the work conducted by DOT to protect Highway 3 may be in jeopardy. The collapse may also result in additional contamination of City property and resources.

The Health District therefore requests the City's assistance with conducting video monitoring of the culvert as soon as possible. If you have any additional questions concerning this request, please feel free to contact either myself or Michelle Miller at (360) 692-3611.

Sincerely,



Scott Daniels  
Assistant Director  
Environmental Health Division

cc: Mayor Lynn Horton, City of Bremerton  
Don Miles, BKCHD  
Michelle Miller, BKCHD  
Jon Walker, KC Prosecuting Attorney  
Joanne Polayes, NWRO Ecology  
Bob Wright, NWRO Ecology  
Doug Pierce, DOT  
Doris Small, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Lucille Uhinck, c/o Rick Uhinck, 4880 N.W. David Road, Bremerton, WA 98312  
Project File BAWL 3.1